

BOARD OF FINANCE

March 19, 2014

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Finance held at 7:00 P.M., on Wednesday, March 19, 2014.

Members Present: First Selectman Freda, Mr. Monico, Mr. Hallahan, Mr. Pieper, Ms. Vissicchio, Mr. Lianos, Ms. Brown

Also Present: Director of Finance Edward J. Swinkoski

The following materials were either mailed to the members prior to this meeting or distributed at this time:

1. Agenda - March 14, 2014
2. Revised Agenda – March 17, 2014
3. Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 19, 2014
4. February 28, 2014
 - Report of Budget
 - Report of Revenue
 - Special Funds
 - Board of Education Accounting
5. Resolution, Appropriate \$199,250 Middle School
6. Resolutions (3), Budget to Public Hearing
5. FY 14-15 Decrement List
6. FY 14-15 Budget dated March 19, 2014

MINUTES

After a brief discussion of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 19, 2014, Mr. Lianos moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Ms. Vissicchio.

VOTE:	Freda- Yes	Monico - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Pieper - Yes	Vissicchio - Yes	Lianos - Yes
	Brown - Yes		

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

REPORT OF BUDGET, REVENUE, SPECIAL FUNDS AND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACCOUNTING FEBRUARY 28, 2014

Mr. Swinkoski referred to these reports stating that tax collections at the end of February were 99.4%. Mr. Swinkoski reviewed the expenditure report in detail. Further discussion followed. Mr. Hallahan then made a motion to accept the reports.

Seconded by, Ms. Brown.

VOTE: Freda- Yes Monico - Yes Hallahan - Yes
 Pieper - Yes Vissicchio - Yes Lianos – Yes
 Brown - Yes

RESOLUTION – MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mr. Monico asked Mr. Johns, Chairman of the Middle School Building Committee to discuss the funding of the resolution.

Mr. Johns then gave the following breakdown of costs:

A/E Pre-Referendum Services	\$120,000
Cost Estimating Services	\$18,250
Reimbursable Expenses	\$10,000
 Preliminary Hazardous Material Screening	 \$40,000
Wetlands Investigation	\$1,500
Phase I - Site Assessment	\$3,500
Fire Protection Flow Test	\$1,000
Sub-Surface Utility Inspection	\$5,000

Mr. Johns said that these are all reimbursable expenses. A brief discussion followed with Board members asking questions.

Mr. Lianos then moved the following:

RESOLVED: that it is recommended that the Board of Selectmen call a Special Town Meeting to take action on the acceptance of this recommendation to authorize the expenditure of an amount not to exceed One hundred ninety nine thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$199,250.00) for pre-referendum (schematic design and outline specifications as required by the Office of School Facilities) services provided by Perkins Eastman Architects, PC, in connection with the project known as the Renovate as New and New Academic Addition Construction Project at North Haven Middle School.

Seconded by, Mr. Hallahan.

VOTE: Freda- Yes Monico - Yes Hallahan - Yes
 Pieper - Yes Vissicchio - Abstain Lianos - Yes
 Brown - Yes

FINALIZE FY 2014-15 BUDGET

Mr. Monico went over the budget changes. He said that most of the changes were capital line items.

Mr. Freda said that if we had a mill rate increase with this budget, the June referendum for the Middle School would not likely pass. In order to ensure that the June referendum pass, this budget reflects a 0% increase in taxes with no cut in services to residents. He said that we were able to hold the line on taxes while increasing the Town Government budget by \$900,000 and the Board of Education budget by about \$1.1million. Mr. Freda said that the overall budget represents a 2.3% increase but it is still \$3.6 million less than was originally requested.

Mr. Hallahan went over the income budget in detail and asked several questions. Mr. Hallahan also said that while he agrees with most of the capital cuts, he felt that a few items should be put back into the Public Works capital budget and he would like to see the Board of Education budget increased by 3%.

Mr. Monico said that the Board needs to present a budget that is in the best interest of the Town. He felt we would be taking a risk if we increase the mill rate.

Mr. Pieper then moved the following:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance recommends to the Public Hearing a FY 2014-2015 Town Government Budget of \$40,806,602.

Seconded by, Ms. Vissicchio.

VOTE:	Freda- Yes	Monico - Yes	Hallahan - No
	Pieper - Yes	Vissicchio - Yes	Lianos - Yes
	Brown - Yes		

Mr. Pieper then moved the following:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance recommends to the Public Hearing a FY 2014-2015 Board of Education Budget of \$48,051,239.

Seconded by, Mr. Lianos.

VOTE:	Freda- Yes	Monico - Yes	Hallahan - No
	Pieper - Yes	Vissicchio - Yes	Lianos - Yes
	Brown - Yes		

Ms. Vissicchio then moved the following:

RESOLVED: That a FY 2014-2015 Budget recommendation of \$88,857,84. be presented to the Public Hearing to be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2014, with the Town Government to be presented first, beginning at 7:00 P.M., followed by the Board of Education Budget, to begin no later than 8:30 P.M., with general discussion to follow as may be warranted.

Seconded by, Mr. Pieper.

VOTE:	Freda- Yes	Monico - Yes	Hallahan - No
	Pieper - Yes	Vissicchio - Yes	Lianos - Yes
	Brown – Yes		

OTHER

Mr. Hallahan asked if the following non-binding question could be placed on the referendum ballot for informational purposes only.

The North Haven Board of Education requested a 3.7% increase in their 2014-15 budget. The Board of Finance reduced their increase to 2.3%, approximately covering the contractual increase in the Education Department's labor costs. Would you have approved a 3% total Board of Education budget increase, which would represent an additional \$328,796.35 expense, resulting in a .11 mill tax increase (from 28.10 to 28.21 mills)?

Mr. Freda said he would check with the Town Attorney.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Discussion followed for approximately 15 minutes with residents asking questions and making recommendations.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Freda moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 PM, seconded by Mr. Lianos.

VOTE:	Freda- Yes	Monico - Yes	Hallahan - Yes
	Pieper - Yes	Vissicchio - Yes	Lianos - Yes
	Brown - Yes		